UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,425	01/03/2002	Kent Blossom	FIS9-2001-0301US1	8937

28211   7590   09/21/2004

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EXAMINER
ZEWDU, MELESS NMN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2683	

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/037,425	BLOSSOM ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Meless N Zewdu	2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>03 January 2002</u> is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u>.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is the first on the merit of the instant application.

2.   Claims 1-21 are pending in this action.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the texts on figs. 3 and 4 are not legible.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to

the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement

drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version

of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an

amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be

canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and

where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes

made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency.

Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the

remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in

the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the

drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be

notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The

objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 8 recites the limitation "said first-level regional servers" in line 3. There is

insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art (APA) in view of Salazar (US

6,073,141).

As per claim 1: a regional message server of a communication system, said regional

message server comprising:

a first agency reads on 'APA (see fig. 1A, element 122).

a second agency reads on 'APA (see fig. 1B, element 127). But, the APA does

not explicitly teach about a global directory, as claimed by applicant. However, in a

related field of endeavor, Salazar teaches about a computer system comprising a global

directory (a master data base) that stores a master set of a plurality of records and a

plurality of terminals in communication with the master database (see fig. 1, element

200; col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 30; col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38). Note:

the prior art teaches that the central database (the global directory) may be, for

example, "the Worldwide Defense Messaging System Directory (also known as the X-

.500). Attached systems access and retrieve information from the central database and

store it in a local catch. Periodically, information in the central database is updated with

current information." (see col. 1, lines 12-41). When the central database/global

directory is attached to the APA, the directory system will have a first and a second

connections to respectively be connected/attached to the first and second agencies of

the APA. Also, the directory and server system of the Salazar reference is a computer

system (see abstract), it is obvious that it includes a central processing unit. Therefore,

it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

was made to add Salazar's global directory/server system to the APA for the advantage

of exchanging and updating global message data, as taught by Salazar.

As per claim 2: the regional message server, wherein said first connection connects to

a first message switching unit in said first agency and said second connection connects

to a second message switching unit in said second agency reads on '141 (see fig. 1,

elements 200, and 300). When the references are combined as shown above, the

plurality of servers 300 will become regional servers serving the APA's first and second

agencies via a first and second connections.

As per claim 4: the regional message server, wherein said global directory maintains addresses of units within said first agency and said second agency reads on '141 (see col. 3, lines 1-19; col. 4, lines 24-38).

As per claim 6: the regional message server, wherein said first and second agency are provided access to said global directory to obtain addresses of units within said global directory reads on '141 (see col. col. 3, lines 1-19; col. 4, lines 24-38).

As per claim 8: a communication system comprising:

a first agency and a second agency reads on 'APA (see figs. 1A and 1B; page 1, paragraph 0002-page 2, paragraph 0004). But, the APA does not explicitly teach about a first-level regional server and a second-level regional server. However, in a related field of endeavor, Salazar teaches that a plurality of servers and a global directory connected to each other, as shown in fig. 1, can be used for global (worldwide) messaging exchange system (see fig. 1, elements 200 and 300; col. 1, line 64-col. 2, line 30; col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38). Note: the servers 300 can be considered as plurality of regional servers and when the references are combined as shown above, the first-level regional server (300) will be connected to the first and second agencies of the APA. Furthermore, the plurality of regional servers (300) will be able to communicate each other. The motivation is as provided in the rejection of claim 1, above.

As per claim 9: some of the features of claim 9 are similar to the features of claim 8. Hence, the similar features of claim 9 are rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 8. The difference features are provided as shown below.

a directory of regional servers reads on '141 (see col. 1, line 62-col. 2, line 4).

a central processing unit reads on '141 (see abstract). Since, the directory/server system of the Salazar reference is a computer system, it is obvious that it includes a central processing unit.

As per claim 10: the communication system, wherein said directory of regional servers maintains addresses of all regional servers serviced by said communication system reads on '141 (see fig. 1; col. 1, line 62-col. 4, line 4).

As per claim 11: the communication system, wherein said central processing unit forwards said message from one first-level regional server to one or more second-level regional servers reads on '141 (see abstract; col. 1, lines 12-41).

Claims 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the APA in view of Foladare et al. (Foladare) (US5,905,777).

As per claim 12: a method of transferring messages between a first agency and a second agency, said method comprising:

transferring a message from a send unit in said first agency to a first message switching unit within said first agency reads on APA (see fig. 1A, elements 120, 121 and 122).

transferring said message from said second message switching unit to a destination unit in said second agency reads on 'APA (see fig. 1B, elements 125, 126 and 127). But, the APA does not explicitly teach about transferring said message from said first message switching unit to a regional message server and transferring said message from said message server to a second message switching unit in said second

agency, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Shaffer

teaches about a call routing system wherein a global internet server is placed between

a source PBX and a destination PBX for routing a message from a calling party to a

called party (see entire document, particularly, fig. 1, elements 16, 12. 32 26 and 24;

col. 1, lines 36-50; col. 2, lines 9-38). The internet server placed in between the first

PBX and the second PBX can be put in between the first and the second switches of

the APA in a similar manner, since a PBX is a switch and local as is the APA switches.

Upon the internet server placed in between the two APA switches, the APA's first switch

will be able to transfer a message to the internet server and the internet server will be

able to transfer the message to the second APA's switch and finally to final destination.

But, the APA in view of Shaffer does not explicitly teach about a regional server alerting

an address of said message, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of

endeavor, Foladare teaches about an E-mail paging system comprising a server,

wherein the server alerts a recipient to the arrival of important message to enable the

recipient to designate to the server a selected forwarding destination to send the

message (see col. 1, line 43-col. 2, line 67, particularly, col. 1, lines 57-67). Therefore, it

would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to further modify the above references for the advantage of enabling a recipient

apparatus to designate to the server a selected destination to forward the message, as

taught by Foladare.

As per claim 17: a method of transferring messages between a first agency and a

second agency, said method comprising:

transferring a message from a sending unit in said first agency to a first

message switching unit within said first agency reads on APA (see fig. 1A, elements

120, 121 and 122; page 1, paragraph 0003-page 2, paragraph 0004).Element 122 is the

first switching.

transferring said message from said first message switching unit to a first

regional message server reads on APA (see fig. 1A, element 123). The CAD host

(element 123) of the APA can be considered as a first regional message server.

a first regional message server to transfer said message to a second level

regional message server reads on 'APA (see fig. 1A, element 123). The CAD host

(element 123) of the APA can be considered as a first regional message server that can

transfer said message to a second level regional message server.

a second regional message server to receive a message transferred from a

second level regional message server reads on APA (see fig. 1B, element 128). The

CAD host (element 128) of the APA can be considered as a second regional message

server.

a second message switching unit in said second agency to receive said message

transferred from said second regional message server reads on APA (see fig. 1B,

element 127).

transferring said message from said second message switching unit to a

destination unit in said second agency reads on APA (see fig. 1B, elements 125, 126

and 127). But, the APA does not explicitly teach about a second-level regional message

server that receives a message from a first regional message server and transfers it to a

second regional message server, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of

endeavor, Shaffer teaches about a call routing system wherein a global internet server

is placed between a source PBX and a destination PBX for routing a message from a

calling party to a called party (see entire document, particularly, fig. 1, elements 16, 12.

32 26 and 24; col. 1, lines 36-50; col. 2, lines 9-38). The internet server placed in

between the first PBX and the second PBX can be put in between the first and the

second switches of the APA, to which respectively a first and second servers are

attached, in a similar manner. Then after, the first regional server (fig. 1A, element 123)

and the second regional server (fig. 1B, element 128) will respectively transfer and

receive messages from the second-level regional server (internet server). But, the APA

in view of Shaffer does not explicitly teach about a regional server alerting an address of

said message, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor,

Foladare teaches about an E-mail paging system comprising a server, wherein the

server alerts a recipient to the arrival of important message to enable the recipient to

designate to the server a selected forwarding destination to send the message (see col.

1, line 43-col. 2, line 67, particularly, col. 1, lines 57-67). Therefore, it would have been

obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further

modify the above references for the advantage of enabling a recipient apparatus to

designate to the server a selected destination to forward the message, as taught by

Foladare.

Claims 3, 5, 13 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over the APA in view of Foladare, as applied to claim 12 above, and

further in view of Vaudreuil (US 5,872,779).

As per claim 3: but, the above cited references do not explicitly teach about a

translator, wherein said first agency and said second agency operate under different

addressing protocol and said translator translates between said different addressing

protocols, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Vaudreuil

teaches about a communication system comprising addressing plan using community

addressing wherein an address translation table is provided in a network HUB (see col.

3, lines 3-18; col. 20, lines 1-14; col. 22, lines 19-30; col. 32, lines 16-33; col. 35, lines

26-35; col. 35, line 63-col. 36, line 7). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Vaudreuil's address/

protocol translator to the above references for the advantage of providing a

communication system that supplies network based multimedia communication with a

variety of addressing schemes as taught by Vaudreuil (see col. 2, lines 58-63).

As per claim 5: the regional message server, wherein said central processing unit

changes an address of a message received from said first agency into a format

acceptable to said second agency and forwards said message to said second agency

reads on '779 (see col. 3, lines 3-18; col. 20, lines 1-14; col. 22, lines 19-30; col. 32,

lines 16-33; col. 35, lines 26-35; col. 35, line 63-col. 36, line 7). Motivation is same as

provided in the rejection of claim 3.

As per claim 13: the method further comprising translating, by said regional server, said message from an address protocol used by said first agency to a protocol used by said second agency reads on '779 (see col. 3, lines 3-18; col. 20, lines 1-14; col. 22, lines 19-30; col. 32, lines 16-33; col. 35, lines 26-35; col. 35, line 63-col. 36, line 7). Motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 3.

As per claim 18: the method further comprising translating, by one of said first regional message server and said second regional message server, said message from an addressing protocol used by said first agency to a protocol used by said second agency reads on'779 (see col. 3, lines 3-18; col. 20, lines 1-14; col. 22, lines 19-30col. 32, lines 16-33; col. 35, lines 26-35; col. 35, line 63-col. 36, line 7). Motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 3.

Claims 7 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claims 1 and 17 above, and further in view of Barzegar et al. (Barzegar) (US 5,894,478).

As per claim 7: but, the references cited in claims 1 and 17 above do not explicitly teach about a regional message server wherein said central processing unit produces a report of active units in said first agency and said second agency, as claimed by applicant. However, in a related field of endeavor, Barzegar teaches that a database holds the user profile for every active mobile user (see col. 4, line 55-col. 5, line 3; col. 8, lines 4-15; col. 10, lines 55-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above references with the teaching of Barzegar for the advantage of being able to route a

message to an intended destination knowing that it is an active device (able to receive the message).

As per claim 21: the feature of claim 21 is similar to the feature of claim 7. Hence, claim 21 is rejected on the same ground and motivation as claim 7.

Claims 14-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references, as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Salazar.

As per claim 14: but, the above references do not explicitly teach about maintaining a global directory having address of units within said first agency and said second agency, as claimed by applicant. However, Salazar teaches about a global directory (master database) that stores a plurality of master set of records including terminal units that have connection to the master database and wherein each of the terminals stores a subset of the master set records (see col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 16, col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38). The motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 1.

 As per claim 15: the method further comprising providing said first agency and said second agency access to said global directory to obtain address of units within said global directory reads on '141 (see col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 16, col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38).

As per claim 16: the method further comprising providing said first agency and said second agency access to said global directory reads on '141 (see col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19). The motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 1.

As per claim 19: the method further comprising a global directory having address of units within said first agency and said second agency reads on '141 (see col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 16, col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38). The motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 1.

As per claim 20: the method further comprising providing said first agency and said second agency access to said global directory to obtain address of units within said global directory reads on '141 (see col. 1, line 57-col. 2, line 16, col. 2, line 66-col. 3, line 19; col. 4, lines 24-38). The motivation is same as provided in the rejection of claim 1.
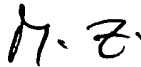
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Meless N Zewdu whose telephone number is (703) 306-5418. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am to 5:00 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on (703) 308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Meless Zewdu

Examiner

17 September 2004.

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